

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A foam component comprising a matrix formed from a polymeric material and a plasticiser, a dissolution aid, and an active ingredient, preferably being active in an aqueous environment, the foam component being stable upon contact with air and unstable upon contact with water.
2. A foam component according to claim 1, which releases the active ingredient or part thereof, upon contact with water, the component preferably partially or completely disintegrating, dispersing, denaturing and/or dissolving upon contact with water.
3. A foam component according to any preceding claim which has an elastic modulus of less than 10GN.m^{-2} , preferably less than 1GN.m^{-2} .
4. A foam component according to any preceding claim, whereby said active ingredient is a cleaning product ingredient, fabric care ingredient, pharmaceutical ingredient or cosmetic ingredient, preferably selected from enzymes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressers, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, fabric conditioners, antibacterial agents and mixtures thereof.
5. A foam component according to any preceding claim, whereby said dissolution aid comprises an effervescence system, a hydrotrope, a cellulosic material, a water-soluble salt, or a combination thereof.
6. A foam component according to any preceding claim, whereby said polymeric material has a glass transition temperature of less than 50°C , preferably less than 40°C .
7. A foam component according to any preceding claim, whereby said polymeric material comprises a water-soluble polymer, preferably a water-soluble polyvinyl alcohol.

8. A foam component according to any preceding claim, which is in the form of a particle having a mean particle size of from 50 to 4000 microns, preferably from 100 to 150 microns.
- 5 9. A foam component according to any preceding claim, which has a relative density of from 0.05 to 0.9, preferably from 0.3 to 0.7.
- 10 10. A foam component according to any preceding claim, whereby said component comprises a series of closed and open cells, whereby the number ratio of closed cells to open cells is preferably at least 1:1.
11. A foam component according to any preceding claim which is obtainable by a process comprising the steps of;
- 15 a) obtaining a mixture of a polymeric material; and
- b) chemically or physically introducing a gas in said mixture; and
- c) prior to step b) and/or simultaneous with step b) and /or subsequent to step b), contacting an active ingredient to said mixture; and
- d) prior to step b) and/or simultaneous with step b) and /or subsequent to step b), contacting a dissolution agent to said mixture; and
- 20 e) shaping the articles of the resulting mixture;
- whereby preferably one or more steps a) to e) are followed or accompanied by the removal of part of the water, if present.
12. A foam component according to claim 11, whereby prior to step b) said dissolution agent is contacted to said mixture of polymeric material and plasticiser.
- 25 13. Use of a foam component according to any of claims 1 to 12 to deliver active ingredients to an aqueous environment, preferably the active ingredients being detergent active ingredients, preferably enzymes, and the aqueous environment being the wash
- 30 water,

14. Use of a foam component according to any of claims 1 to 12 in cleaning compositions, fabric care compositions, personal care compositions, cosmetic compositions or pharmaceutical compositions, preferably to incorporate therein active ingredients selected from enzymes, perfumes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressers, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, antibacterial agents, effervescing systems, and mixtures thereof.

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